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Title : Failure of a Tail Rotor Blade in a Helicopter			Document No. PD MT 8820 Date of issue: Sep 1988
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Abstract : During a sortie in a Chetak helicopter, severe vibrations were experienced. On landing, it was noticed that the outboard rib of a tail rotor blade and the rivets fastening the rib to the blade skin were missing. The skin made of an aluminium-copper alloy was found torn off at some of the rivet holes. The skin had thinned and the rivet heads reduced in size due to erosion. Stress corrosion cracking had set in on the skin near the rivet holes. Due to centrifugal forces and the already cracked skin near the rivet holes, the outboard rib with the rivets had been pulled out of the skin. The erosion of the rivet head could have also contributed to the failure.			